REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 30, 2007 is respectfully requested.

It is initially noted that a number of minor editorial changes have been made to the specification and abstract for the sake of the form of the application as a whole. In addition, Figs. 8 and 9 have been labeled as "prior art" in accordance with a requirement made by the Examiner. Please see the accompanying replacement drawing sheets.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 as being indefinite. These claims have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 6-10, respectively. It is submitted that each of these claims have been carefully drafted so as to fully comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. More particularly, the claims have been redrafted so as avoid narrative language and, in claim 7, so as to define the gap with the transition piece. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections have been overcome by the presentation of the new claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being unpatentable over JP 2003-065071 in view of either JP 63-080021 or JP 62-288328. Further, claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable over these references and in further view of Wilhelm, Jr., U.S. 3,652,181. Further, claims 4 and 5 were rejected as being unpatentable over these references and in further view of Coslow, U.S. 3,345,494. However, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention clearly patentably distinguishes over each of the references cited by the Examiner.

Independent claims 6, 7, and 11, all newly presented above, all recite the feature of a plate having a plurality of holes, or an impingement-cooling plate, having one end that is fixed and another end that is not fixed. In the present invention, by having the plate 4, such as an impingement-cooling plate, fixed at one end, for example to protrusion 1b, as seen from Fig. 1, and not fixed at the other end b, adjacent to protrusion 1d as seen in Fig. 1, a significant advantage is provided. That is, the impingement-cooling plate, for example, avoids receiving the thermal stress from the protrusions on which the plate is provided.

The first cited reference, JP 2003-065071, has an impingement ring 4 fixed to a side face 2 and a wall 3 by being welded. The Examiner acknowledges that the first

reference does not teach that only one end is fixed or cantilevered while the other end is not fixed. However, the Examiner cites JP '021 as having an end that is not fixed and sealed by an elastic plate 11. Alternatively, JP '328 is cited as teaching an impingement cover plate 2 having holes 4 with one end fixed and a sealing gap between a non-fixed end by an elastic plate 7.

However, JP '021 has a cooling cover 2 that is fixed as a result of one end being joined to a connection stand 10 and another end being fitted into a slot 9. Accordingly, this reference does not disclose or suggest having one end that is not fixed.

JP '328 has a cooling cover plate 2 that is fixed as a result of one end being joined to a tail pipe 1 and its other end being fitted into a grove 6 of a tail pipe outlet frame 3. This arrangement is similar to JP '021, it is noted.

Thus, it may be seen that none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest that the plate has one end thereof fixed to one of the protrusions and another end thereof which is left unfixed. Nor do any of the references disclose or suggest an impingement-cooling plate fixed at one end thereof in a cantilevered state with another end which is not fixed and forms a gap with the transition piece. Rather, each of the cited references has both ends fixed.

Accordingly, none of the references cited by the Examiner discloses or suggests the advantages of the present invention in allowing the plate or impingement-cooling plate to be free from the effects of thermal deformation of the transition piece.

It is further noted, with respect to claims 6, 7 and 11, for example, that none of these references, further, disclose or suggest a gap as recited, that gap being sealed by an elastic plate as recited. No such plate is disclosed or suggested by the references cited.

It is noted that the elastic plate, in sealing the gap, allows the compressed air to be efficiently sent into the tail pipe.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as reflected by each of independent claims 6, 7 and 11 clearly patentably distinguishes over each of the references cited by the Examiner. The secondary references to Wilhelm, Jr. and Coslow, it is noted, do not cure the defects of the references that have been discussed above. Accordingly, indication of allowability of all of the claims that are now pending is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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